

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

PRS-01 OPR-01 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /034 W

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R 071349Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3044

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1530

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJ: FIRING EPISODE IN ADDIS ABABA

1. ACCORDING SEVERAL INDEPENDENT SOURCES, SEVERAL BURSTS OF MACHINE GUN FIRE WERE HEARD IN ADDIS ON OR ABOUT 0105 HOURS, FEBRUARY 7. APPARENTLY THERE WERE THREE BURSTS WITH PAUSES IN BETWEEN, WITH THE WHOLE EPISODE LASTING ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

2. SOME OF OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT THE FIRING APPEARED TO COME FROM THE GENERAL AREA OF BOLE AIRPORT. OTHERS SAY THAT IT CAME FROM AKAKI PRISON. STILL OTHERS ASCRIBE FIRING TO ATTEMPTED ARREST AT NEARBY GUENET HOTEL. OUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES HAVE SPOKEN TO OAU SOURCES WHO ARE CONVINCED IT CAME FROM THE PRISON.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE NOT RPT NOT YET CONVINCED THAT THE FIRING CAME FROM THE PRISON, THE ASSERTION BY SOURCES WHO SAY IT CAME FROM THE BOLE AIRPORT AREA IS NOT RPT NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE STATEMENT OF OTHER SOURCES THAT IT CAME FROM THE PRISON. MOREOVER, OAU HEADQUARTERS ARE A BLOCK AWAY FROM THE PRISON AND PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE MAY, THEREFORE, ATTACH TO THE STATEMENT OF OAU SOURCES. AT THIS STAGE WE STILL CONSIDER THE SITING OF THE FIRING AT THE PRISON AS SOMEWHAT QUESTIONABLE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PATTERN OF BURSTS DESCRIBED IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH OBTAINED LAST NOVEMBER 23. WE ARE CHECKING AND WILL REPORT OUR FINDINGS.

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WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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